

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented communication method ~~for message transmitting and message receiving users having related health characteristics~~, comprising:

from each of a plurality of receiving users, receiving corresponding the message receiving user defining at a receiving user computer personal health message receiving criteria for determining messages to be received by that receiving user ~~from other users who conform to the personal health message receiving criteria~~, the corresponding personal health message receiving criteria for each user including ~~personal or health~~ categories that are relevant to that receiving characteristics relating to the message receiving user;

from a transmitting user, receiving the message transmitting user defining at a transmitting user computer a message and personal health message transmitting criteria for directing the received message to other users whose personal health message receiving criteria conform to the personal health message transmitting criteria, the personal health message transmitting criteria including ~~personal or health~~ categories that are relevant ~~characteristics relating to the received message or to the transmitting user~~; and

comparing the personal health message receiving criteria for each of the plurality of receiving users to the personal health message transmitting criteria to identify those users among the plurality of receiving users to whom the received message should be transmitted; and

transmitting the received message to the identified users among the plurality of receiving users ~~any message receiving user with personal health message receiving criteria that conform to the personal health message transmitting criteria~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 in which the received message is transmitted to each identified receiving the message receiving user ~~with personal health message~~

~~receiving criteria that conform to the personal health message transmitting criteria~~ without disclosing the identity of the ~~message~~ receiving user to the ~~message~~ transmitting user.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 in which the identified receiving users include those for whom ~~personal health message receiving criteria conform to personal health message transmitting criteria only~~ if the personal health message receiving criteria include all of the personal health message transmitting criteria.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 in which the identified receiving users include those for whom ~~personal health message receiving criteria conform to personal health message transmitting criteria~~ if the personal health message receiving criteria include at least selected ones of the personal health message transmitting criteria.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving corresponding personal health message receiving criteria from each of a plurality of receiving users includes receiving identifier of a further comprising for the message receiving user at the receiving user computer a receiving user interface that allows the receiving user to specify message receiving criteria that include plural health condition[[s]] that relates relating to the message that receiving user and is selected from among predefined health conditions.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[5]] 1 wherein receiving corresponding personal health message receiving criteria from each of a plurality of receiving users includes receiving identifier of a user-defined in which the receiving user interface further allows the receiving user to specify message receiving criteria that include plural health condition[[s]] that relates to the message that receiving user and includes one or more user-defined health conditions, the method further including correlating the user-defined health condition[[s]] with a health terminology thesaurus having concept unique identifiers that correspond to and provide uniform characterizations of the user-defined health condition[[s]].

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving personal health message transmitting criteria includes receiving identifier of a further comprising for the message

~~transmitting user at the transmitting user computer a transmitting user interface that allows the transmitting user to specify message receiving criteria that include plural health condition[[s]] that relates relating to the message transmitting user and is selected from among predefined health conditions.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[7]]~~ 1 wherein receiving personal health message transmitting criteria includes receiving identifier of a user-defined in which the transmitting user interface further allows the transmitting user to specify message transmitting criteria that include plural health condition[[s]] that relates to the message transmitting user and include one or more user-defined health conditions, the method further including correlating the user-defined health condition[[s]] with a health terminology thesaurus.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising obtaining from each receiving user and the transmitting user personal health-related information about ~~the~~ that user, the health-related information including one or more health-related terms that each corresponds to a health-related concept; and

correlating with a health terminology thesaurus each of the one or more health-related terms with a single concept unique identifier that uniquely identifies a corresponding health-related concept, each concept unique identifier having associated with it one or more terms corresponding to a common health-related concept, ones of the terms being lay medical terms and not clinical medical terms.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 in which computer implementation of the method employs a client computer and a server computer that are interconnected by a computer network the method further comprising:

providing at the client computer a user interface with which each user provides the personal health-related information about the user, the health-related information being defined by one ore more health-related terms;

transmitting the personal health-related information about the user over the computer network to the server computer, the server computer storing the health terminology thesaurus; and

correlating each of the one or more health-related terms with a single concept unique identifier at the server computer.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 in which the computer network includes the Internet.

12. (Currently Amended) In a computer-readable medium, computer software ~~for message transmitting and message receiving between users having related health characteristics~~, comprising:
software for receiving from each of a plurality of receiving users corresponding allowing the ~~message receiving user to define at a receiving user computer~~ personal health message receiving criteria for determining messages to be received by that receiving user ~~from other users who conform to the personal health message receiving criteria~~, the corresponding personal health message receiving criteria for each user including personal or health categories that are relevant to that receiving characteristics relating to the message receiving user;

software for receiving from a transmitting user ~~allowing the message transmitting user to define at a transmitting user computer~~ a message and personal health message transmitting criteria for directing the received message to other users ~~whose personal health message receiving criteria conform to the personal health message transmitting criteria~~, the personal health message transmitting criteria including personal or health categories that are relevant ~~characteristics relating to the received message or to the transmitting user~~; and

software for comparing the personal health message receiving criteria for each of the plurality of receiving users to the personal health message transmitting criteria to identify those users among the plurality of receiving users to whom the received message should be transmitted;
and

software for transmitting the received message to the identified receiving users among the plurality of receiving users ~~any message receiving user with a personal health message receiving criteria that conform to the personal health message transmitting criteria~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 12 further comprising software for transmitting the received message to each identified receiving the message receiving user with ~~personal health message receiving criteria that conform to the personal health message transmitting~~

criteria without disclosing the identity of the ~~message~~ receiving user to the ~~message~~ transmitting user.

14. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 12 in which the identified receiving users include those for whom ~~personal health message receiving criteria conform to personal health message transmitting criteria only if~~ the personal health message receiving criteria include all of the personal health message transmitting criteria.

15. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 12 in which the identified receiving users include those for whom ~~personal health message receiving criteria conform to personal health message transmitting criteria if~~ the personal health message receiving criteria include at least selected ones of the personal health message transmitting criteria.

16. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 12 wherein the software for receiving from each of a plurality of receiving users corresponding personal health message receiving criteria includes ~~further comprising software for providing to the message receiving user at the receiving user computer~~ a receiving user interface that allows the receiving user to select an identifier of a specify message receiving criteria that include plural health condition[[s]] that relates relating to the message that receiving user and is selected from among predefined health conditions.

17. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim ~~[[16]]~~ 12 in which the software for receiving from each of a plurality of receiving users corresponding personal health message receiving criteria includes a ~~the~~ receiving user interface that further allows the receiving user to identify a user-defined ~~specify message receiving criteria that include plural health condition[[s]]~~ that relates ~~to the message that~~ receiving user ~~and include one or more and user defined health conditions,~~ the medium computer software further including software for correlating the user-defined health condition[[s]] with a health terminology thesaurus having concept unique identifiers that correspond to and provide uniform characterizations of the user-defined health condition[[s]].

18. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 12 wherein the software for receiving from a transmitting user a message and personal health message transmitting criteria includes further

~~comprising software for providing to the message transmitting user at the transmitting user computer~~ a transmitting user interface that allows the transmitting user to select an identifier of a ~~specify message receiving criteria that include plural health condition[[s]]~~ that relates relating to the message that transmitting user and is selected from among predefined health conditions.

19. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim [[18]] 12 in which the software for receiving from a transmitting user a message and personal health message transmitting criteria includes a ~~the~~ transmitting user interface that further allows the transmitting user to identify a user-defined ~~specify message transmitting criteria that include plural health condition[[s]]~~ that relates to the ~~message transmitting user and include one or more and user-defined health conditions~~, the ~~medium~~ software further including software for correlating the user-defined health condition[[s]] with a health terminology thesaurus.

20. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 12 further comprising software for obtaining from each receiving user and the transmitting user personal health-related information about ~~the~~ that user, the health-related information including one or more health-related terms that each corresponds to a health-related concept; and

software for correlating with a health terminology thesaurus each of the one or more health-related terms with a single concept unique identifier that uniquely identifies a corresponding health-related concept, each concept unique identifier having associated with it one or more terms corresponding to a common health related concept, ones of the terms being lay medical terms and not clinical medical terms.

21. (Original) The medium of claim 20 in which computer implementation of the medium employs a client computer and a server computer that are interconnected by a computer network, the medium further comprising:

software for providing at the client computer a user interface with which each user provides the personal health-related information about the user, the health-related information being defined by one or more health-related terms;

software for transmitting the personal health-related information about the user over the computer network to the server computer, the server computer storing the health terminology thesaurus; and

software for correlating each of the one or more health-related terms with a single concept unique identifier at the server computer.

22. (Original) The medium of claim 21 in which the computer network includes the Internet.

23. (Original) In a computer-readable medium, a data structure comprising:
personal health message receiving criteria associated with receiving users for determining messages to be received from other users who conform to the personal health message receiving criteria, the personal health message receiving criteria including personal or health characteristics relating to the receiving users; and
personal health message transmitting criteria associated with transmitting users for directing a selected message to other users whose personal health message receiving criteria conform to the personal health message transmitting criteria, the personal health message transmitting criteria including personal or health characteristics relating to the transmitting users.

24. (Original) The data structure of claim 23 in which one or more of the personal health message receiving criteria and the personal health message transmitting criteria are correlated with concept unique identifiers that uniquely identify health-related characteristics.

25. (Original) The data structure of claim 24 in which each concept unique identifier includes numeric characters.

26. (Original) The data structure of claim 24 in which each concept unique identifier includes alpha-numeric characters.

27-32 (Cancelled).